

Communities of Practice (ESWG)

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Introduction

- History
 - CAIB - Secure Collaboration did not exist within the Agency
 - Go LIVE on April 1, 2004
- Current usage stats
 - 4400 users
 - 325 work groups
- ESWG is a proven answer to a critical need within the Agency

Types of ESWG

Enhanced Security Work Groups for Sensitive Data

Membership is limited to those individuals involved in making NASA programs and projects successful, including contractors, industry partners, and academia. Membership in the community is predicated on the notion of reciprocity and sharing of knowledge as well as responsiveness to the needs and inquiries of the community.

Legal/Security Ground Rules

- No classified information.
- Work Group Members must be verified by their Work Group Originator.

Enhanced Security Work Groups for Non-Sensitive Data

Enhanced Security Work Groups are available for those groups that do not have a need to handle sensitive information. These Work Groups **DO NOT** have authorization to share ITAR/EAR, SEB or other sensitive information that falls under the classification of ACI.

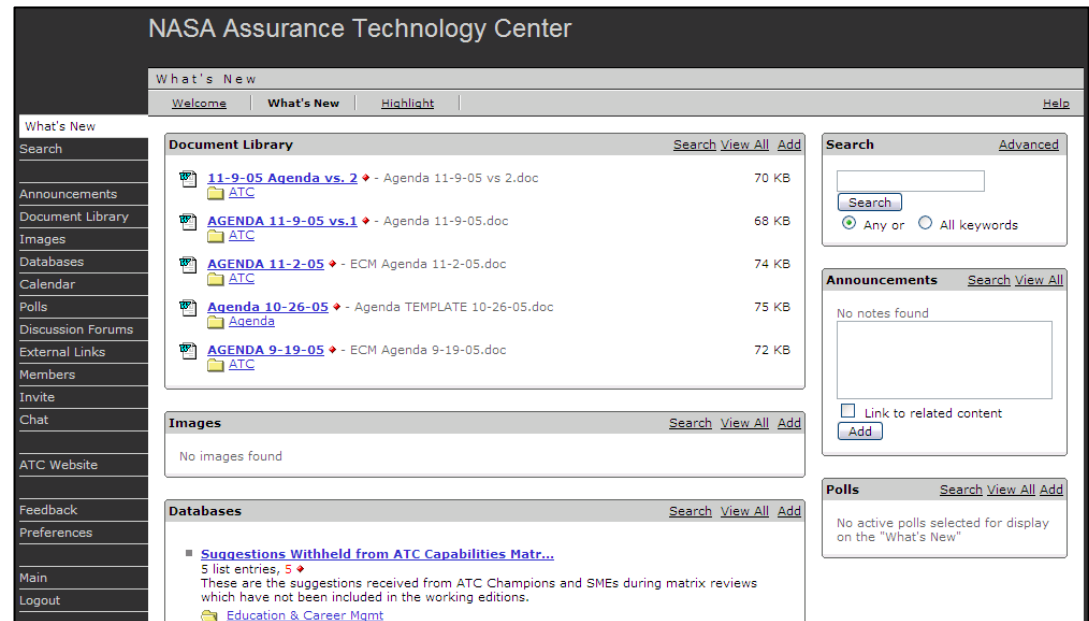
These Work Groups have the same functionality as those that handle ACI and can be used for that purpose once the Work Group Originator has completed the process (http://pbma.nasa.gov/secureworkgroups_main_cid_499) of signing the *PBMA ESWG IT Security Plan* and submitting the NAC Verification Form.

Legal/Security Ground Rules

- No classified information.
- No material protected under Federal Export Control and International Traffic in Arms Regulations.
- No competition sensitive or proprietary information.
- No other sensitive material within the ACI category.

Current Functionality

- Tool Offering
 - Chat
 - Discussion Forums
 - Document Library
 - Check-in / Check-out
 - Version Control
 - Links
 - Image Library
 - Database
 - Primary Keys
 - Foreign Keys
 - Calendars
 - Nested Calendars
 - Polling
- Many other features
 - Demos in the side room



Versatility

- Academic Discussion
 - Communities of Practice
 - "Communities of Practice" is a phrase coined by researchers who studied the ways in which people naturally work and play together. Communities of practice are groups of people who share similar goals and interests. In pursuit of these goals and interests, they employ common practices, work with the same tools and express themselves in a common language. Through such common activity, they come to hold similar beliefs and value systems.
 - Work Groups
 - A group of people who work under a charter to achieve a certain goal. Most working groups have a *finite lifetime*. That is, once a working group has achieved its goal, it disbands.

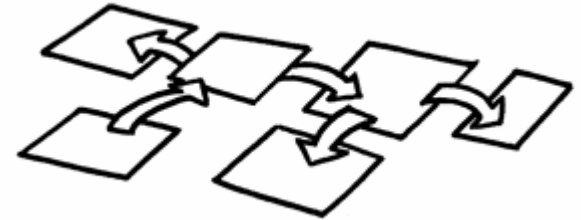
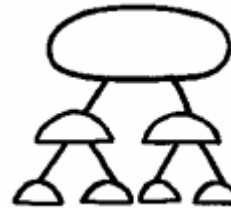
Recent Additions

- *Database Tool*
 - The tool has been greatly enhanced. New features include: broadened set of supported field-types, field specific properties, custom naming convention for records, field-level display controls, nested databases, advanced search and saved "views".
- *User-Level Permissions*
 - Permissions may now be assigned to individual users in all areas of the application (in addition to membership groups). An additional input area now appears for single-user selection. A streamlined pop-up search interface facilitates user selection in large communities.
- *Improved WYSIWYG Editor*
 - A new, easier-to-use formatted-text editor (WYSIWYG editor) is now available for Articles, Discussions, Mailings Lists and Databases. It now fully supports Firefox, Netscape and Mozilla browsers in addition to Internet Explorer.

Future State

- Affiliations

- Hierarchical Structures
- Complex Relationships



- Web Services API will allow better integration of the ESWG tool with other PBMA functionalities
- RSS – very powerful technology for publishing and collecting news and updates from around the Agency.
 - Syndication
 - Aggregation
- Mailing Lists

Steering for the curve ahead...

- Community Directory
 - Matrixed structure ensures information is getting to the widest possible audience
- Publicly available and OPEN Communities of Practice
 - *Cleared* information flows from the child work groups up to the top level Communities of Practice
- Open-facing CoP's content will be incorporated into PBMA as knowledge artifacts and put in context of the Framework.

